

INFORMATION ITEM

January 21, 2010

To: Executive Board
From: Bob Drewel, Executive Director
Subject: **Regional Food Policy Council**

AT ISSUE

At the request of the City of Seattle Council President, Richard Conlin and the concurrence of PSRC President, Mayor Stephanson of Everett, PSRC will create a Regional Food Policy Council. The Regional Food Policy Council will work with community, business, agriculture, and government partners to identify gaps in the region's food system and develop integrated policy recommendations and actions that will help our region achieve growth management and a food system that supports healthy people, communities, and environmental sustainability.

DISCUSSION

PSRC is uniquely situated to provide a common framework for food system analysis and planning at a regional level. PSRC's main focuses of transportation, growth management, and economic development all are important to how our region's food is grown, transported and distributed. Housing the Regional Food Policy Council housed within the structure of the PSRC will foster a regional, more structured and more systematic way to provide coordinated food system policy recommendations.

A Regional Food Policy Council offers an interdisciplinary approach to developing protections for agricultural land, improving public health in our region and increasing access to fresh, local food. It also addresses issues of environmental protection including climate change, transportation, economic development and emergency preparedness and food security.

The Regional Food Policy Council will be structured as a working advisory committee that will report to the PSRC Executive Board. Four members of the Seattle-King County Acting Food Policy Council will work as a volunteer transition team and assist in the establishment of the Council at PSRC. Membership on the Regional Food Policy Council has yet to be determined, but will include representatives from across the food system, including those involved in production, processing, packaging, distribution, consumption, and waste as well as representatives from other sectors such as environmental agencies, housing, emergency preparedness and economic development

If you have any questions or know someone who has an interest in participating with this group, please contact Olivia Robinson at (206) 464-7890 or orobinson@psrc.org